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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SIXTH

Convention of Delegates

FROM THE

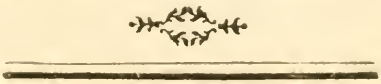
ABOLITION SOCIETIES

Eſtabliſhed in different Parts of the United States,

ASSEMBLED AT

PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JUNE, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED, AND CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENTS, UNTIL THE SIXTH DAY OF THE SAME MONTH, INCLUSIVE.



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1917

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE FIFTH

Convention of Delegates.

Philadelphia,
June 4th. 1800, 10 *o'clock*, A. M.

SEVERAL delegates from Abolition Societies, eſtabliſhed in various parts of the United States, aſſembled this day in the City Hall, in purſuance of the recommendation of the Convention of 1798, when, from the credentials produced, it appeared that the following perſons were appointed to repreſent their reſpective Societies:—

New-Jerſey.
- Joſeph Bloomfield,
- Clement Hall,
- Franklin Davenport,
- William Parrot,
- Robert Smith, junior.

Pennſylvania,
- Thomas P. Cope,
- James Milnor,
- Thomas Parker,
- Thomas Harriſon,
- Timothy Paxſon,
- Samuel Bettle,
- George Williams.

Micajah

Richmond, { Micajah Davis, Joſeph Anthony, John Ellis, Tarlton W. Pleaſants.

Of whom the following were preſent:

Joſeph Bloomfield,
Clement Hall,
Robert Smith, junior,
Thomas P. Cope,
James Milnor,
Thomas Harriſon,
Timothy Paxſon,
George Williams,
Micajah Davis.

The Convention proceeded to the choice of a Preſident,—when, on counting the votes, it appeared that Joſeph Bloomfield was elected.

John R. Coates, a member of the Pennſylvania Society, was appointed Secretary, and John Rafield Door-keeper.

The following addreſſes from the Pennſylvania and Richmond Societies, were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

To the CONVENTION *of* DELEGATES *from the different Abolition Societies in the United States, propoſed to be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the fourth day of the Sixth-month* 1800.

AFTER a lapſe of two years, it is with great ſatisfaction we ſee the period approaching, when the ſixth Convention are to aſſemble. Still impreſſed with the ſame forcible reaſons in favor of theſe aſſociations, which have heretofore governed us, we cheerfully contribute our co-operation towards their continuance. In this inſtance we have appointed, Thomas P. Cope, James Milnor, Thomas Parker, Thomas Harriſon, Timothy Paxſon, Samuel Bettle and George Williams, our Delegates.

In

In the addreſſes which we have already tranſmitted to the ſeveral former Conventions, the ſtate of the different objects recommended to our attention are ſo minutely detailed, that we do not think it neceſſary to trouble you with a recapitulation of all that has been done on our part.

It will be proper to note ſuch additional particulars, as we deem ſufficiently important to communicate.

We accompany the preſent addreſs, with the names and places of reſidence, of ſuch perſons as have been admitted members of our inſtitution, ſince the date of our laſt communication, and of the officers thereof for the current year.

In our laſt addreſs we mentioned that we had commenced our exertions for obtaining the laws reſpecting ſlavery, from the ſtates ſouthward of this, in which no Abolition Societies are eſtabliſhed, and that they had been obſtructed by difficulties which we were not then able to ſurmount. Thoſe difficulties ſtill exiſt. A committee who have had the matter under care, for the paſt year, have not been able to obtain any of theſe documents, and from their report it appears that the proſpect is very diſcouraging.

Enquiry has been made reſpecting the illegal and circuitous trade in ſlaves, between this country and Africa, and it appears that ſuch a traffic is extenſively carried on. Veſſels clear out for the Weſt Indies, where they diſpoſe of their out cargoes and proceed to Africa for ſlaves, whom they ſell in the Weſt Indies upon their return. Altho' this practice is notorious, the offenders eſcape with impunity, and we fear that this is owing, in a great meaſure, to defects in the exiſting law upon the ſubject; which appears only to contemplate the caſe

of

of an actual *fitting out*, expreſsly for the purpoſe of carrying on the ſlave trade. If this conſtruction be true, we ſubmit it to your judgment to determine, how far an application from your Body to Congreſs, for a reviſion and amendment of the law, may be expedient and uſeful.

With regard to the property of the free, and the employment and moral conduct of all the blacks within our ſtate, we cannot add any thing very material to what we have heretofore communicated.

In the property of the free, we believe there is no great variation from what was exhibited in a ſtatement thereof tranſmitted to a former Convention. Some who then had houſes in the city and ſuburbs, have been obliged to part with them to pay the ground rents, while others have, by induſtry and economy, been enabled to procure houſes. We know but little as to the property poſſeſſed by blacks in other parts of the ſtate, but a good account of their moral conduct has been received from ſome places in the country.

The employment of the free blacks in the city is various. Some are mechanics, more are waiters, a ſtill larger number are ſeamen; but the great body of them are day labourers; the ſlaves are generally waiters.

The moral conduct of many of theſe ſeveral deſcriptions of people, merits approbation; that of a number is exemplary; but we lament that too many, notwithſtanding great labour has been made uſe of, to convince them of the evil tendency of their conduct, ſpend much of their time and money in frolic and intemperance.

The great conſolation however which we find amidſt the regrets occaſioned by this unfortunate depravation of morals, is in the hope of better things

things from the riſing generation. If we are but ſucceſsful in infuſing ſound principles into the minds of the young, and in ſuitably forming their early habits, we truſt that the future exemplarineſs of their lives will awaken thoſe who are older, to an appreciation of the importance of religion, and the beauty and excellence of a moral deportment through life.

Under this impreſſion, we have continued an unremitted attention to the ſubject of education.

Since our laſt addreſs, Abſalom Jones, Miniſter of the African church in this city, commenced a ſchool for young blacks, in aid of which, for one year, we granted him one hundred dollars.

Another black man has alſo opened a ſchool in the Northern Liberties, at which a few ſcholars have been taught at the expenſe of the Society. It is believed however, that our preſent ſchool eſtabliſhments may be advantageouſly varied, and in conſequence ſeveral material alterations are in contemplation. As exertions alſo are now making for an increaſe of the fund for educating black children, we ſhall probably ere long be better enabled than at preſent, to be uſeful in this prime object of our inſtitution.

Amongſt the various duties which have occupied the ſeveral committees of our ſociety during the paſt year, we feel great ſatisfaction in mentioning thoſe of our committee of employ, who have been eminently uſeful in finding employment for a large number of blacks; anſwering by this means, the call of humanity, preſerving the ſpirit of induſtry, and contributing to prevent the fatal effects of habits of idleneſs.

The queſtion reſpecting the conſtitutional exiſtence of ſlavery in this ſtate, has not yet received a judicial determination.

We mentioned in our laſt addreſs, that a bill for the entire abolition of ſlavery was then before our State Legiſlature. The buſineſs has been procraſtinated until the laſt ſeſſion, when a bill on this important ſubject paſſed the Houſe of Repreſentatives, but the ſeſſion ſoon after cloſing, it was not taken up by the Senate.

We tranſmit you a copy of this bill, and without obſerving, in detail, on its proviſions; we cannot but expreſs our diſapprobation of many of them. Proceeding as we do on a great principle of natural right, we regret that a legiſlative recognition of it, ſhould be accompanied with reſtrictions inconſiſtent with its full enjoyment; and that it ſhould be conceived neceſſary to increaſe the exiſting prejudices againſt an oppreſſed claſs of our Fellow-men, by burdenſome and ſevere diſcriminations.

We propoſe to give attention to the progreſs of this buſineſs at the next ſeſſion of the Legiſlature, and in the mean time we will hope, that ſuch amendments may be made to this bill, as ſhall meet the general approbation of our fellow citizens, and more effectually benefit the unfortunate beings whoſe welfare is the object of our anxious ſolicitude and care.

Signed by direction, and in behalf, of the Pennſylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. &c.

JAMES PEMBERTON, *Preſident.*

Philadelphia, Fourth-month, 7th. 1800.

Atteſt.

TIMOTHY PAXSON,
JAMES MILNOR, } *Secretaries.*

To the next General Convention of Delegates, from the ſeveral Abolition Societies to be held in Philadelphia.

Respected Friends,

WE have received, and read with ſatisfaction, the addreſs to us, from the Convention of 1798, congratulating us on the general progreſs of their objects ſince laſt meeting; the union of ſentiment and harmony of deliberation which has prevailed in their proceedings, together with the advantages it hath produced in combining the views and operations of the friends of emancipation throughout the United States, is encouragement to us, to appoint delegates to attend the enſuing Convention, to repreſent us therein.

We agree with you, that too much cannot be ſaid on the neceſſity of a conſtant attention to the ſubject of education, to prepare the minds of our unfortunate African brethren for that condition of freedom and rank in ſociety, to which, we believe, they will ſooner or later arrive. This is indeed a ſubject of great weight and has engaged our attention ſo far, as to appoint a committee to conſider of the ways and means moſt likely to enable us to proceed in ſo deſirable a work; but as yet we can hardly ſay, we have done more than make the firſt ſtep.

We were for a conſiderable time engaged in the proſecution of ſundry ſuits in the General Court, and at length obtained judgments for the freedom of thirteen perſons; but previous to obtaining the ſaid judgments, they were carried away by their holders into South Carolina and Georgia, and we were informed, that they and their deſcendants and connections in the ſame ſituation, amount to about forty

forty or fifty perſons. In the Tenth-month (October) laſt we appointed a committee to enquire after them, with a view to afford ſuch relief as the confined ſtate of our reſources would allow. Two other ſuits in Patenburg Diſtrict Court, are determined, by which ſeven perſons have recovered their freedom, and one ſuit in the Richmond Diſtrict Court, which the Society had inſtituted for the recovery of a family, (ſaid to be of Indian deſcent) conſiſting of about twenty-four perſons, was determined againſt us. We have alſo under notice ſuits, ſome inſtituted by the parties themſelves, (whom we have undertaken to befriend,) and others by order of the ſociety, for about one hundred perſons who appear to be unlawfully detained in bondage; theſe ſuits we cannot proſecute with as much vigor, as we would wiſh, for want of ſufficient funds: nevertheleſs it is our intention to keep them in view, and proceed therein as we may be able, for notwithſtanding our Conſtitution has been amended, and the requiſitions on the members doubled, and ſome new ones added, yet we find that the weight of buſineſs claiming our attention with that already engaged in, is more than we can well accompliſh, independent of extending our views to that deſirable object of ſchool education; and ſo fully affording our aid in many caſes as would be neceſſary in the promotion of the cauſe of humanity.

We fully unite with you, in your care and attention in ſuppreſſing the iniquitious practice of trafficking in our fellow men, particularly in wreſting them from their native land (and thereby tearing them from all their near and tender ties of nature,) as well as a violation of the laws of our country; we truſt all ſuch caſes that may come to our knowledge will be attended to.

We

We herewith preſent you with a copy of our reviſed Conſtitution, and appoint Micajah Davis, Joſeph Anthony, John Ellis and Tarlton W. Pleaſants or either of them, to repreſent this ſociety in General Convention.

Signed by direction, and on behalf, of the Virginia Abolition Society, at their half yearly meeting, held in the city of Richmond, by adjournment, on the 18th. day of the Fourth-month, (April) 1800.

M. DAVIS, *Preſident* pro.tem.

Atteſt

JOSEPH ANTHONY, *Secretary.*

Reſolved, That the addreſſes from the ſeveral Societies be inſerted at large on the minutes.

In order to give time for other Repreſentatives to make their appearance before the Convention proceed to further buſineſs, it was agreed to adjourn till 6 o'clock in the afternoon, to which time the Convention accordingly adjourned.

June

June fourth,—6 *o'clock*, P. M.

The Convention met,

Preſent:

Joſeph Bloomfield, Preſident,

Clement Hall,	Timothy Paxſon,
Robert Smith, junior,	George Williams,
William Parrot,	Micajah Davis,
Thomas P. Cope,	James Milnor.

The following perſons were appointed to report on the objects proper for the attention of this Convention: Micajah Davis, Clement Hall, and George Williams.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

June fifth, 1800.

The Convention met.

Preſent:

Joſeph Bloomfield, Preſident,

Clement Hall,	Thomas Parker,
William Parrot,	Thomas Harriſon,
Robert Smith, junior,	Timothy Paxſon,
Thomas P. Cope,	George Williams,
James Milnor,	Micajah Davis,

John Brown, a Delegate from the New-York Society, produced his credentials, and took his ſeat.

The following communication was received from the New-York Manumiſſion Society, *viz.*

To the CONVENTION *of* DELEGATES *from the different States in the American Confederacy, which contain Societies for abolishing the practice of African slavery. The Society established in New-York, "for promoting the manumission of slaves, and "protecting such of them as have been or may be "liberated," respectfully submits the following Report on the present condition of their Institution.*

THE condition of negroes at that time in New-York, relative to their morals, property and employment was reported on to the Convention very fully in 1797, since which, no material change has taken place in these particulars, excepting that the Society flatter themselves a gradual and progressive improvement continues to be made.

The instruction of African and other people of color, is still regarded as a leading object of this Society's care. The school consists at this time of about one hundred children: the male teacher who was formerly usher in this seminary, is himself a man of color, and executes commendably the trust reposed in him; it is very gratifying to observe the good conduct of those who have received an education here, the manners and deportment of such, being greatly improved beyond those of their color who have not enjoyed similar advantages. This article as well as the preceding, was on the occasion before mentioned and referred to, so fully discussed, that it seems the less necessary to go into particulars at present, which would be in several respects, a repetition of what has heretofore been reported.

It is however deemed proper to revive the consideration of a plan, which has been adopted in Queen's county on Long Island, by a number of benevolent persons, for the instruction of people of

of color, as the mode may perhaps be worthy of imitation in other places. They have eſtabliſhed a fund which is let at intereſt, with the income of this, they pay for the tuition of as many children as they can; there is a great convenience in this method, for in many places, eſpecially in the country, where it is impoſſible to eſtabliſh a ſchool entirely of blacks and other perſons of color, it is found practicable with the annual profits of this capital, to pay for the tuition of a number of children in different parts of the country, and to procure admiſſion for them into the ſchools for common inſtruction, where white children are taught; by this means a conſiderable number of this hitherto neglected and deſpiſed race, are reſcued from ignorance, and from its almoſt inſeparable companion, VICE.

It will doubtleſs be agreeable to the Convention to learn, that this Society ſtill holds a convenient parcel of unencumbered real eſtate, eſtimated to be worth four thouſand dollars, conſiſting of three lots of ground, on one of which is a building erected for the accommodation of the ſchool.—And the Convention will learn with equal ſatisfaction, that the Corporation of the city of New-York have granted toward the ſupport of the ſchool, for the preſent year, the ſum of five hundred and ſeventeen dollars, the account of this donation was accompanied with an intimation of its being highly probable that an equal ſum, or more would be appropriated annually for the ſame purpoſe. This money is the product of a capital paid from the public treaſury annually to the cities and towns in the ſtate for the better ſupport of ſchools. It ſeems that the Corporation of our city have been enabled to veſt nearly thirty thouſand dollars of their proportion of this yearly allowance from the Treaſury in

in public ſtock. In diſtributing the ſum which is received to the different ſchools throughout the city, the African ſchool has been judged worthy of a dividend equal to the before mentioned amount.

With reſpect to the addreſs of a former Convention to the people of color, pains have been taken to diſtribute the printed copies of the ſame, to impreſs the ſentiments it contains, and to make them operative and uſeful; a conſiderable number yet remain on hand, the proper diſpoſal of which will continue to be an object of the Society's care. A regiſter of deeds of manumiſſion is kept by this Society.

Since the report made to the Convention in 1798, this Society has been ſucceſsful in its efforts to afford relief to a number of perſons held in bondage; there have been ſince that time ſeventy-four applications for aſſiſtance, of theſe eighteen have terminated in the liberation of the oppreſſed, chiefly under the law prohibiting importation. Seven others are now in ſuit, ſome of which are under the clauſe of the ſtatute prohibiting importation, others where the perſons held as ſlaves are not of African deſcent, but the offspring of the native Indians of America, and one as having ſerved in the army of the United States, during the late revolutionary war. The caſes of forty more are under conſideration by the Standing Committee: Their ſubjects of complaint are various, ſome as having been brought into this ſtate and ſold; ſeveral as deſcendants of the Aborigines; a few under the ſtatute of limitation; and a number as having belonged to perſons whoſe eſtates were heretofore confiſcated: Nine of the applications have been diſmiſſed for want of ſufficient proof; and in addition to theſe, ſome of the Society have been individually ſucceſsful in obtaining the liberation of a number of perſons by their perſonal interference.

A diſcovery has lately been made of a circuitous traffic in ſlaves carried on unlawfully within the juriſdiction of the ſtate of New-York; the method purſued by the perſons who conduct this nefarious and abominable trade we are informed is, to carry them from this, to one of the ſouthern ſtates and from a convenient port there, as Norfolk or Savannah, to re-ſhip them for the Weſt India market. It ſeems this practice has become frequent, and has been followed a conſiderable time without detection. On the 18th. of April, the Standing Committee was informed that ſeveral blacks were confined on board of a veſſel lying in the ſtream, belonging to a Frenchman: meaſures were taken immediately to detain her, but before the neceſſary ſteps could be taken, ſhe was got under ſail and put to ſea without a clearance. On the 23d. information was received that another veſſel was lading with negroes, who were in general very ſecretly conveyed to the ſhore in carriages, and taken on board; one of the Magiſtrates accompanied by the Chairman of the Standing Committee, and ſeveral others, went on board this veſſel and found four blacks confined in the hold, there they learned from the maſter and crew, that the owners were Frenchmen, that their intention was to ſhip a conſiderable number of blacks, that thoſe found on board were a part of the cargo, and that the whole buſineſs was conducted with all poſſible ſecrecy on account of its being a violation of the law of the ſtate: For the puniſhment of the perſons concerned in theſe vile proceedings, it has been judged proper to commence ſuits againſt the owners, under the ſtatute for recovery of the penalty therein expreſſed, and for liberating the ſlaves ſo intended to be exported, and to proſecute criminally one of the owners and another perſon, a citizen of this ſtate for kidnapping a *Free Boy* diſcovered among the negroes confined on board the ſaid veſſel.

The Society alſo forward to the Convention a copy of a public act of the Legiſlature of New-York, which provides for the gradual abolition of ſlavery in this populous and extenſive ſtate.

We cannot perhaps terminate our report more properly, than by a reflection on the means which, under Divine permiſſion, have appeared to be thus far uſeful, in freeing the oppreſſed, and enlightening the minds of the ignorant; and by congratulating you on the proſpect of our living in a community in which, within a time, not far diſtant, nor difficult to eſtimate—Domeſtic Slavery will be unknown, and where the bleſſings of civil and religious liberty will be equally extended to all.

New-York, May 20th. 1800.

WILLIAM W. WOOLSEY,
Firſt Vice Preſident.

VALENTINE SEAMAN, *Secretary.*

The Committee appointed to report upon the objects proper for the attention of this Convention, produced the following, *viz.*

THE committee appointed to arrange the buſineſs proper to be entered upon by the Convention, beg leave to Report,——

That, in their opinion, it will be expedient to appoint committees for the following purpoſes—

A committee to prepare a circular addreſs to the different Abolition Societies in the United States, ſetting forth the utility of meeting in Convention, and thus uniting their efforts, not only for the extermination of ſlavery and the ſlave trade, but alſo for the illumination of the underſtanding and improvement of the religious and moral conduct of the unhappy deſcendants of Africa.

Alſo

Alſo, a committee to review the addreſſes to the free blacks, &c. heretofore iſſued by the Convention, and to re-inculcate, in a varied form, the ſentiments of rectitude and affectionate well-wiſhing therein contained, with ſuch other matter as may appear to them ſuitable; the committee believing ſuch a ſtep to be neceſſary, not only on account of the blacks, but alſo to ſhew to the citizens of the United States and to the world, that the Friends of perſonal freedom are perſuaded the ſuperſtructure of happineſs cannot be erected unleſs founded on the baſis of religion and virtue.

The committee further propoſe, that, in the contemplated addreſs to the different ſocieties, a recommendation ſhould be inſerted, exciting them to contribute funds to be appropriated under the direction of the next Convention, towards the aſſiſtance of ſuch of the Abolition Societies as have much buſineſs to engage their attention, and are but weak in pecuniary reſources, or to ſuch other objects as the next Convention may think adviſable.

By order of the Committee,
M. DAVIS, *Chairman*.

Robert Smith, junior, Thomas P. Cope, John Brown, and Micajah Davis were appointed a committee to prepare an addreſs to the different Societies.

William Parrot, Timothy Paxſon, and James Milnor were appointed a committee to prepare an addreſs to the free blacks.

Reſolved, That the committee appointed to frame the addreſs to the different Abolition Societies, be directed to inſert a requeſt, that they would take into conſideration the propriety of giving to the next Convention, authority to form a Conſtitution,

tution, and adopt ſuch meaſures as may be calculated to give permanence to the Convention, and that they expreſs their opinions reſpectively on this ſubject to the ſaid next Convention.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

June 6th. 1800.

The Convention met.

Preſent:

Joſeph Bloomfield, Preſident,

Clement Hall,	Thomas Harriſon,
William Parret,	Timothy Paxſon,
Robert Smith, junior,	George Williams,
Thomas P. Cope,	Micajah Davis,
James Milnor,	John Brown.
Thomas Parker,	

The committee appointed to review the addreſſes to the free blacks, heretofore iſſued by former Conventions, made the following report, the conſideration of which, after ſome debate, was poſtponed.

The committee appointed to review the addreſſes to the free blacks, heretofore iſſued by former Conventions, &c.

REPORT,

That, from a careful examination of the addreſſes of former Conventions to the free blacks and other people of color, they are induced to believe, that the addreſs of the Convention of ninety-ſix, contains the moſt valuable inſtruction, and that they cannot improve it by any addition or modification.

They, therefore, propoſe that the following recommendation, be inſerted in the addreſs of this Convention to the ſeveral Abolition Societies, *viz.*

That

That we are fully perſuaded that conſiderable advantages have reſulted heretofore, from addreſſing the free blacks and other people of color, and therefore that thoſe benefits may ſtill be continued to them, we are induced earneſtly to recommend the republication and diſtribution of the very excellent addreſs of the Convention of 1796; that they be convened together as often as may be convenient, to revive, in their remembrance, the ſubſtance of ſaid addreſs, and that ſuch counſel and advice be, from time to time, added, as may tend to their religious and moral improvement.

By order of the Committee,

WILLIAM PARRET, *Chairman.*

The committee appointed to prepare a circular addreſs to the ſeveral Abolition Societies, preſented the following, which was twice read, conſidered by paragraph, and unanimouſly adopted:—

To *Society, &c.*

THE Convention of delegates, from the different Abolition Societies eſtabliſhed in the United States, feel a pleaſure in informing you, that their deliberations have been conducted with much harmony and ſatisfaction to themſelves.

They, however, deeply regret, that ſo few of the Societies have been induced to ſend Repreſentatives to the Convention.

The great and good work of reſtoring liberty to the captive, and fitting him to fill that ſtation in the ſcale of being, from which he has been forced by the domineering ſpirit of power and uſurpation, may be conſidered as little more than begun. How many thouſands of miſerable wretches yet languiſh in ſlavery, in theſe United States, to whom the

the light of morn, which ſhould awaken all nature alike to harmony and joy, affords, perhaps, no other conſolation ſave the ſolitary certainty, that one day more is taken from the long period of their ſufferings.—This is not all—In vain do you liberate the African, while you neglect to furniſh him with the means of properly providing for himſelf, and of becoming an uſeful member of the community. This ſubject alone opens an extenſive field for active benevolence, and juſtly demands the exerciſe of a large portion of the talents and labours of the friends of emancipation.

To effect theſe deſirable objects, ſo importunately called for by every ſentiment of a feeling heart, union and concentration of energy appear to be indiſpenſible. The ſocieties ſhould never be found in the purſuit of incongruous meaſures, but act in concert; and this cannot, perhaps, be better accompliſhed than by a free and liberal interchange of opinions, and knowledge, and experience. The convention ſhould be the rallying point of information, whence uſeful knowledge ſhould diverge to each ſociety, communicating life, energy, and conſiſtency to the whole.

The advantages reſulting from this inſtitution may be known by paſt experience; but as an additional inſtance of the good effects flowing from it, we refer you to the addreſſes forwarded this year to the Convention, and printed in the minutes; in which you will perceive, and eſpecially in the one from New-York, much valuable matter. That ſociety mentions a ſpecies of kidnapping, which to the diſgrace of humanity, has been carried on in that city in a manner at once evincing the barefaced hardineſs of its perpetrators, and the wicked and cunning arts practiced, by the enemies of freedom, on an oppreſſed people. There is

good

good reaſon to believe, that ſimilar practices are ſecretly purſued in other parts of the Union. We therefore earneſtly preſs your vigilant attention to the ſubject, in order that if any other perſons ſhould be engaged in this nefarious trafic, they may be made to ſuffer that expoſure and puniſhment which the enormity of the crime ſo richly merits.

Fully impreſſed with the magnitude of the object, and the benefits to be derived from it, we cannot forbear ſtrongly to recommend, that another Convention be held in this city on the firſt Wedneſday in June, in the year 1801. And, in order to inſure permanency, and its conſequent advantages to this eſtabliſhment, we ſubmit to your conſideration, the expediency of delegating to your Repreſentatives, the power of aiding in the formation of a Conſtitution, for the government of future Conventions.

The caſe mentioned by the Virginia ſociety, held at Richmond, from which it ſeems evident that a ſmall ſum of money, beyond what their funds are calculated to bear, might reſtore a conſiderable number of perſons to liberty, who were unlawfully taken from their ſtate into Georgia, and there ſold as ſlaves, has called forth the ſympathy of this Convention; and forcibly ſuggeſts the propriety of enabling the next Convention, by the voluntary contributions of the different ſocieties, to grant ſome pecuniary aid to ſimilar and other proper objects. Much good might be done in this way; and perhaps ſome ſocieties, who are capable, may be found willing promptly to beſtow a portion of their funds to the Virginia ſociety, to enable them more effectually to proſecute this particular claim, It is alſo to be preſumed, that ſome of the Societies. eſpecially in the eaſtern ſtates, where ſlavery no longer

longer exiſts, might render their benevolent exertions more extenſively uſeful, by ſuitable and timely grants to others, who are leſs wealthy, and have much to do.

You have embarked in an excellent cauſe—go on and proſper,—until liberty, like the light of Heaven, or the air we breathe, ſhall, however men may be diverſified by color, ſhape or habit, become the equal inheritance of all.

By order of the Committee,

THOMAS P. COPE, *Chairman.*

Reſolved, That eight hundred copies of the minutes of this Convention, be printed and diſtributed among the ſeveral Societies; that James Milnor, Thomas P. Cope, and Timothy Paxſon be a committee to ſuperintend the publication and diſtribution thereof; that they alſo tranſmit one copy of the addreſs of the Convention to each Society; give at leaſt three months notice of the meeting of the next Convention; and, if practicable, procure correct copies of the acts of Congreſs, relative to the ſlave trade, and have them publiſhed with the minutes; and that they alſo make an abtract of ſuch laws, on the ſubject of ſlavery, as have been paſſed in any of the ſtates, ſince the publication of the former abſtract, or ſuch of them as can be obtained.

ADJOURNED, *ſine die.*

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

An act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave-trade, from the United States to any foreign place or country.

Section I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled*, That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigner, or any other perſon coming into, or reſiding within the ſame, ſhall, for himſelf or any other perſon whatſoever, either as maſter, factor or owner, build, fit, equip, load or otherwiſe prepare any ſhip or veſſel, within any port or place of the ſaid United States, nor ſhall cauſe any ſhip or veſſel to ſail from any port or place within the ſame, for the purpoſe of carrying on any trade or traffic in ſlaves, to any foreign country; or for the purpoſe of procuring, from any foreign kingdom, place or country, the inhabitants of ſuch kingdom, place or country, to be tranſported to any foreign country, port or place whatever, to be ſold or diſpoſed of, as ſlaves: And if any ſhip or veſſel ſhall be ſo fitted out, as aforeſaid, for the ſaid purpoſes, or ſhall be cauſed to ſail, ſo as aforeſaid, every ſuch ſhip or veſſel, her tackle, furniture, apparel and other appurtenances, ſhall be forfeited to the United States; and ſhall be liable to be ſeized, proſecuted and condemned, in any of the circuit courts or diſtrict court for the diſtrict, where the ſaid ſhip or veſſel may be found and ſeized.

Section II. *And be it further enacted*, That all and every perſon, ſo building, fitting out, equipping, loading, or otherwiſe preparing, or ſending away, any ſhip or veſſel, knowing, or intending, that

that the ſame ſhall be employed in ſuch trade or buſineſs, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or any ways aiding or abetting therein, ſhall ſeverally forfeit and pay the ſum of two thouſand dollars, one moiety thereof, to the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety thereof, to the uſe of him or her, who ſhall ſue for and proſecute the ſame.

Section III. *And be it further enacted*, That the owner, maſter or factor of each and every foreign ſhip or veſſel, clearing out for any of the coaſts or kingdoms of Africa, or ſuſpected to be intended for the Slave-trade, and the ſuſpicion being declared to the officer of the cuſtoms, by any citizen, on oath or affirmation, and ſuch information being to the ſatisfaction of the ſaid officer, ſhall firſt give bond with ſufficient ſureties, to the Treaſurer of the United States, that none of the natives of Africa, or any other foreign country or place, ſhall be taken on board the ſaid ſhip or veſſel, to be tranſported, or ſold as ſlaves, in any other foreign port or place whatever, within nine months thereafter.

Section IV. *And be it further enacted*, That if any citizen or citizens of the United States ſhall, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, take on board, receive or tranſport any ſuch perſons, as above deſcribed, in this act, for the purpoſe of ſelling them as ſlaves, as aforeſaid, he or they ſhall forfeit and pay, for each and every perſon, ſo received on board, tranſported, or ſold as aforeſaid, the ſum of two hundred dollars, to be recovered in any court of the United States, proper to try the ſame, the one moiety thereof, to the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety to the

the uſe of ſuch perſon or perſons, who ſhall ſue for and proſecute the ſame.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

JOHN ADAMS, *Vice Preſident of the United States, and Preſident of the Senate.*

APPROVED—March the twenty ſecond, 1794,

G°. WASHINGTON,
Preſident of the United States.

An Act in addition to the act, entitled, "An act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave-trade from the United States to any foreign place or country."

Section 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled*, That it ſhall be unlawful for any citizen of the United States, or other perſon reſiding within the United States, directly or indirectly to hold or have any right or property in any veſſel employed or made uſe of in the tranſportation or carrying of ſlaves from one foreign country or place to another, and any right or property belonging as aforeſaid, ſhall be forfeited, and may be libelled and condemned for the uſe of the perſon who ſhall ſue for the ſame—and ſuch perſon tranſgreſſing the prohibition aforeſaid, ſhall alſo forfeit and pay a ſum of money equal to double the value of the right or property in ſuch veſſel which he held as aforeſaid, and ſhall alſo forfeit a ſum of money equal to double the value of the intereſt which he may have had in the ſlaves which at any time may have been tranſported or carried in ſuch veſſel after the paſſing of this act, and againſt the form thereof.

Section

Section II. *And be it further enacted*, That it ſhall be unlawful for any citizen of the United States or other perſon reſiding therein, to ſerve on board any veſſel of the United States employed or made uſe of in the tranſportation or carrying of ſlaves from one foreign country or place to another, and any ſuch citizen or other perſon voluntarily ſerving as aforeſaid ſhall be liable to be indicted therefor, and on conviction thereof, ſhall be liable to a fine not exceeding two thouſand dollars, and be impriſoned not exceeding two years.

Section III. *And be it further enacted*, That if any citizen of the United States ſhall voluntarily ſerve on board of any foreign ſhip or veſſel which ſhall hereafter be employed in the Slave-trade, he ſhall on conviction thereof, be liable to, and ſuffer the like forfeitures, pains, diſabilities and penalties as he would have incurred had ſuch ſhip or veſſel been owned or employed in whole or in part by any perſon or perſons reſiding within the United States.

Section IV. *And be it further enacted*, That it ſhall be lawful for any of the commiſſioned veſſels of the United States, to ſeize and take any veſſel employed in carrying on trade, buſineſs or traffic contrary to the true intent and meaning of this or the ſaid act to which this is in addition, and ſuch veſſel, together with her tackle, apparel and guns, and the goods or effects other than ſlaves which ſhall be found on board, ſhall be forfeited and may be proceeded againſt in any of the Diſtrict or Circuit Courts, and ſhall be condemned for the uſe of the officers and crew of the veſſel making the ſeizure, and be divided in the proportion directed in the caſe of prize; and all perſons intereſted in ſuch veſſel, or in the enterprize or voyage in which ſuch veſſel ſhall be employed at the time of ſuch capture,

ture, ſhall be precluded from all right or claim to the ſlaves found on board ſuch veſſel as aforeſaid, and from all damages or retribution on account thereof, and it ſhall moreover be the duty of the commanders of ſuch commiſſioned veſſels to apprehend and take into cuſtody every perſon found on board of ſuch veſſel ſo ſeized and taken, being of the officers or crew thereof, and him or them convey as ſoon as conveniently may be, to the civil authority of the United States in ſome one of the Diſtricts thereof, to be proceeded againſt in due courſe of law.

Section V. *And be it further enacted*, That the Diſtrict and Circuit Courts of the United States ſhall have cognizance of all acts and offences againſt the prohibitions herein contained.

Section VI. *Provided nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act contained, ſhall be conſtrued to authorize the bringing into either of the United States any perſon or perſons, the importation of whom is by the exiſting laws of ſuch ſtate prohibited.

Section VII. *And be it further enacted*, That the forfeitures which ſhall hereafter be incurred under this or the ſaid act to which this is in addition, not otherwiſe diſpoſed of, ſhall accrue and be one moiety thereof to the uſe of the informer, and the other moiety to the uſe of the United States, except where the proſecution ſhall be firſt inſtituted on behalf of the United States, in which caſe, the whole ſhall be to their uſe.

THEODORE SEDGWICK, *Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.*

THOMAS JEFFERSON, *Vice Preſident of the United States, and Preſident of the Senate.*

APPROVED—May 10th. A. D. 1800,

JOHN ADAMS, *Preſident of the United States.*

Abſtract of an act of the Legiſlature of New-York, entitled, "An act for the gradual Abolition of Slavery," paſſed March 29, 1799.

CHILDREN born of ſlaves after the 4th. of July 1799, to be ſervants to the legal proprietor of the mother, males until twenty eight, and females until twenty-five years of age.

Every ſuch child to be regiſtered within nine months from its birth, in the office of the clerk of the city or town where born, the record of which to be ſufficient evidence of its age.

A penalty of five dollars to be incurred by any maſter neglecting to regiſter within nine months, and one dollar for every ſubſequent month, until a return is made, but the clerk is bound to receive the return whenever offered, though the nine months be expired.

Perſon entitled to the ſervice of any ſuch child, may elect within one year after its birth to abandon his right to ſuch ſervice, by a notice under his hand lodged in the office of the town or city clerk where he reſides. in which caſe ſuch child is to be conſidered a pauper of the city or town where the owner of the mother reſides at the time of its birth, and may be bound out by the overſeers of the poor, like the children of other paupers.

The child until bound out, to be ſupported for the firſt year after its birth by the maſter, and afterwards by the ſtate, at an expence not exceeding three dollars and fifty cents per month, for which allowance by the ſtate, the account being firſt ſigned by the Mayor of the city or ſupervifors of the town where born, the Comptroller is authorized to draw a warrant on the Treaſury.

Any

Any owner omitting to give ſuch notice of abandonment continues anſwerable for the maintenance of ſuch child, until the expiration of the above mentioned periods of ſervice.

Any owner of a ſlave may manumit ſuch ſlave by a certificate under his hand and ſeal.

Abſtract of an act, entitled, "An act reſpecting Slaves," paſſed by the Legiſlature of New-Jerſey, on the 14th. of March 1798.

EVERY negro, indian, mulatto or muſtee within this ſtate, at preſent a ſlave for life, to remain ſo unleſs manumitted according to law.

No ſlave to be admitted as a witneſs, in any caſe, civil or criminal, except that in criminal caſes one ſlave may be a witneſs againſt another.

Every contract made with a ſlave, void; and any perſon trading with a ſlave forfeits for each offence, three dollars to the owner.

Penalty of four dollars per day, payable to owner by any perſon harbouring, &c. his ſlave; ſuch penalty not, however, to exceed the value of the ſlave.

Perſon harbouring, &c. a ſlave liable for his value to owner in caſe of ſlave's death, diſability, &c.

Any perſon apprehending a ſlave ten miles from his maſter's houſe, without permiſſion in writing, or being known to be on his maſter's buſineſs, entitled to a reward of one dollar, and reaſonable charges.

Reward of two dollars for taking up a runaway ſlave from another ſtate, and having him committed

to

to gaol by a juſtice, and the ſlave to remain in priſon till his maſter pays the reward and all reaſonable charges.

Slaves aſſembled in a diſorderly tumultuous manner, may be ordered by any conſtable to diſperſe, and if they refuſe, ſuch conſtable ſhall apprehend them, and take them before a juſtice, who may ſend them home to their maſters, or commit them for a time not exceeding one week, or, at the requeſt of the maſter, order them to be whipped by the conſtable, not exceeding twenty laſhes; for which the conſtable ſhall be paid by the maſter one dollar.

Any ſlave ſeen or found from his maſter's houſe, after the hour of ten at night, except on his maſter's buſineſs, or carrying a gun on Sunday, may be apprehended and carried before the next juſtice, who, (if the ſlave cannot give a good account of himſelf,) may in his diſcretion ſend him home, commit him, or order him to be whipped in the manner above mentioned. This is not however, to prevent the ſlave from going to a place of worſhip, or from innocent recreation, or doing any other reaſonable act with his maſter's conſent.

Any maſter ſuffering his ſlave to beg, to forfeit eight dollars for each offence, one half to the uſe of the poor, and the other to the perſon proſecuting.

Any fraudulent or colluſive conveyance of an aged or decrepid ſlave to a perſon unable to maintain him is void, and the perſon making it incurs a penalty of forty dollars.

Any perſon bringing a ſlave into the ſtate, forfeits one hundred and forty dollars, to be ſued for by the collector of the townſhip, and paid by him to the county collector, and by the county collector into the State Treaſury; there is an exception in

favor

favor of perſons coming to reſide in the ſtate, who may bring with them their ſlaves, and of ſojourners, who are not however to ſell their ſlaves within the ſtate.

Any citizen of the ſtate may bring in his ſlaves for ſervice, but not for ſale, on producing to the townſhip collector a certificate from a Judge of the Supreme Court or Court of Common Pleas, of the ſtate from which he comes, that they were the property of ſuch citizen at the time of paſſing this act, which with the affidavit of the party is to be recorded in the office of the county clerk.

All forfeitures to be paid by the townſhip collector recovering them to the county collector, and by him paid into the Treaſury, being firſt credited for neceſſary expences; and any collector neglecting or refuſing to proſecute for a forfeiture, ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum which he ought to have recovered, to be ſued for by any collector, and paid to the State Treaſurer.

Inhumanly treating and abuſing a ſlave, declared an indictable offence, puniſhable by a fine not exceeding forty dollars, to be paid to the overſeer of the poor where the offender reſides.

Owner of any ſlave or ſervant for years, born after the 26th. of November 1788, ſhall cauſe ſuch ſlave or ſervant to be taught to read, under penalty of thirty dollars, which is recoverable with coſts by the overſeers of the poor, whoſe duty it is expreſsly made, to proſecute for the ſame for the uſe of the poor.

Any perſon fitting out, equipping, manning, or otherwiſe preparing any ſhip or veſſel, to ſail from this ſtate for the purpoſe of carrying on a trade in ſlaves, to, from, or between Europe, Aſia, Africa or America, or in any place or country whatever,

or

or of tranſporting ſuch ſlaves to or from one place to another, forfeits the veſſel, cargo, tackle and apparel, which may be ſeized by any Juſtice, Sheriff or Coroner, and proſecuted by information *in rem*, in the Supreme Court, or any Court of Common Pleas of the ſtate.

Such veſſel, after judgment againſt her, ſhall be ſold at public ſale by the Sheriff (or Coroner if Sheriff be a party) of the county, and after deducting coſts and expences, one-eighth of the proceeds is to be paid to the perſon making ſeizure, and ſeven-eighths to the State Treaſury, for the uſe of the ſtate.

Penalty of one hundred and thirty dollars to be incurred by any perſon oppoſing ſuch ſeizure, one half to the ſtate, and the other to the proſecutor.

No ſlave to be removed out of the ſtate, with intention to change his reſidence, if he has reſided therein for twelve months, without his own conſent, if of age, teſtified on private examination, before a juſtice, or if under age without ſuch conſent, and alſo that of his parent teſtified as aforeſaid. The juſtice to make a record, and deliver a copy to ſuch ſlave, containing his name, age, condition and then place of abode, the reaſon of the removal, and the place to which he is to go. Any one ſelling a ſlave to a perſon out of the ſtate, his aiders and abettors ſeverally forfeit fifty dollars, one half to any perſon ſuing for the ſame, and the other to the townſhip from which ſuch ſlave is removed. No perſon liable to this penalty who removes to and reſides in any other of the United States, and takes his ſlaves with him.

Owner of ſlave may manumit him by writing under his hand and ſeal, executed in the preſence of two

two witneſſes, provided ſuch ſlave be found in mind, under no bodily incapacity for labor, and not under the age of twenty-one, nor above the age of forty years, and the owner muſt previouſly obtain a certificate to that effect, ſigned by two overſeers of the poor, and two juſtices of the county where he reſides, which is to be recorded in the office of the county clerk; on a manumiſſion under theſe circumſtances, the owner is exonerated from any reſponſibility for the future maintenance of the perſon manumitted.

Slaves may be manumitted by laſt will and teſtament, under the reſtrictions preſcribed in the caſe of a manumiſſion by deed.

Slave not anſwering the above deſcriptions may be manumitted by writing, executed under hand and ſeal, in the preſence of two witneſſes, if the maſter or ſome perſon on behalf of ſuch ſlave, will, at the Court of Common Pleas of the county where he reſides, enter into bond to the ſtate with two ſufficient ſureties, in the ſum of five hundred dollars, to prevent ſuch ſlave from becoming a public charge. If the manumiſſion be by will, the executors to give bond with ſureties as aforeſaid.

Where no bond is given, the manumiſſion is void.

Manumitted ſlave is exonerated after he arrives to the age of forty years, from the payment of any bond, note or contract or performance of any indenture obtained againſt him in conſequence of ſuch manumiſſion.

The ſettlement of a manumitted ſlave is in the townſhip where the maſter was legally ſettled at the time of the manumiſſion, but he may afterwards gain a ſettlement for himſelf by the ſame means as a white perſon.

Owner

Owner of a ſlave not manumitted according to law, is made liable at all times for his maintenance, but in caſe of his inſolvency, the ſlave being diſabled by ſickneſs or otherwiſe, is a charge on the townſhip where his owner is legally ſettled.

Free negro or mulatto from another ſtate not to travel or reſide in this ſtate without a certificate of his freedom, ſigned by two juſtices of the ſtate from which he comes; and any inhabitant knowingly harbouring, concealing, or employing ſuch negro or mulatto, or ſuffering him to live in his houſe, or other tenement, for one week, ſhall forfeit twelve dollars per week,during the continuance of the offence, for the uſe of any perſon who will ſue for the ſame.

No free negro or mulatto belonging to this ſtate, ſhall travel or remain in any other county than where his reſidence is, without a certificate ſigned by two juſtices, or by the county clerk under his ſeal of office, certifying the freedom of ſuch negro or mulatto.

Where a habeas corpus is brought to remove any negro, &c. out of the poſſeſſion of his claimant, the perſon to whom it is directed ſhall in return thereto ſet forth his claim, on which the proſecutor ſhall immediately join iſſue, and the court ſhall award proceſs, to ſummon a jury to attend at the next Circuit Court of the proper county to try the caſe.

The former laws relating to ſlaves, are repealed by this act.